

17 July 1999

William Hubbard
Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

7834 '99 JUL 26 A10:16

Re: Docket: #98N-1038 "Irradiation in the Production, Processing, and Handling of Food"

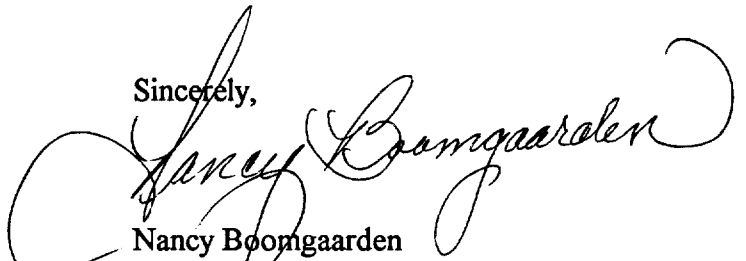
To Whom it may concern:

I am a new member of Public Citizen's Congress Watch. I am immensely concerned about the prospects of weakening labeling requirements for irradiated foods. Even though this letter may be reaching you past the time requirement, I, as a citizen and a consumer, feel the need to voice my opinion. I am becoming increasingly concerned about the foods we buy, the water we drink, and the air we breath. A few years ago citizens of this country we subjected to no labeling requirements, regarding the use of the synthetic Bovine Growth Hormone (BGH) being injected into dairy cows to produce more milk. The Congress voted not to label this chemical hormone on any of the milk products, forcing consumers to do their own investigation as to which dairies wisely chose not to subject their cows, and the consumer, to this synthetic hormone; which is naturally occurring in the cow. Now, agribusiness and the nuclear industries are pressuring the Congress not to label, or to place the misleading label of "cold pasteurizing".

Any foods, or any foods containing ingredients that have been treated by irradiation, should be clearly labeled with the written statement clearly displayed indicating such treatment. Like other labels required by federal law, irradiation labels must be truthful and not misleading. Proposals to use euphemistic phrases such as "cold pasteurization" are inappropriate, and misleading. The terms "treated with radiation" or "treated by irradiation" should be retained to accurately portray the irradiation process. Also, the rudura symbol should be displayed along with the written disclosures.

As a consumer and a citizen, I feel my rights have been usurped by large corporations and the Congress, whose only concern is the bottom line; money. Please ensure that labeling requirements are strengthened, not weakened. And, please keep our democracy alive for the people.

Sincerely,



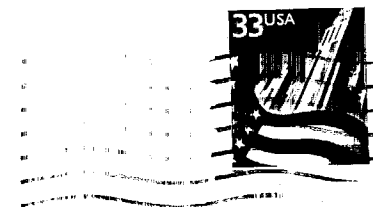
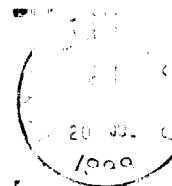
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